

Adequacy of payments for dialysis services

ISSUE: Are Medicare's payments for outpatient dialysis services adequate? How should payments be changed in 2007?

KEY POINTS: At this meeting, we will examine information about the adequacy of current aggregate outpatient dialysis payments. We will look at information about: 1) beneficiaries' access to care; 2) providers' capacity to furnish care; 3) quality of dialysis care; 4) providers' access to capital; 5) changes in the volume of services; and 6) Medicare's payments and costs in 2006.

ACTION: Commissioners should discuss the findings presented in the attached briefing materials. The Commission's recommendation about updating payments for dialysis services will be included in the March 2006 report.

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